

CLAIMS

1. A method of operating a radio system comprising first and second terminals, the method comprising configuring/reconfiguring one of said first and second terminals by a process of service negotiation with the other of said first and second terminals.

2. A method of operating a radio system comprising first and second terminals, the method comprising one of said first and second terminals transmitting message giving parameters relating to its capabilities, and the other of the first and second terminals receiving the message and configuring/reconfiguring itself in accordance with the received parameters.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the one of said first and second terminals initiating the configuring/reconfiguring operation transmits the required function plus software required in building a new function into an actual implementation on the other of said first and second terminals.

4. A method as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised by testing the air interface to ensure that configuration/reconfiguration has taken place without error.

5. A communications system comprising first and second terminals which are able to communicate with each other, wherein at least one of the first and second terminals has means for configuring/reconfiguring itself by a process of service negotiation.

6. A communications system comprising first and second terminals which are able to communicate with each other, wherein at least one of the first and second terminals has means for configuring/reconfiguring itself in

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response to the receipt of a message transmitted by said other of the first and second terminals giving parameters relating to its capabilities.

7. A communications system as claimed in claim 6, characterised in
5 that the first and second terminals are radio terminals.

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8. A communications system as claimed in claim 5, 6 or 7,
characterised in that the first and second terminals each have a software
interface including a memory and means for altering the memory, in that at
10 least a portion of the area of the memory has a part allocated to respective
software functions and in that the memory altering means replaces the area of
a respective part in response to a new function being downloaded.

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9. A terminal for use in a communication system in which one
15 terminal can configure/reconfigure another terminal by service negotiation, the
terminal comprising a transceiver, a memory for storing software functions,
and a processor for controlling the operation of the terminal in accordance with
stored software functions, at least one of the software functions being alterable
in response to the receipt of a message containing the new software function
20 plus interface software required by the processor in building a new function
into an actual implementation on the terminal.

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